Capability of ports for modern vessels

*332. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Country's ports are capable of handling new generation vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to make these ports capable of handling new generation vessels?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Lack of globally comparable port infrastructure, mainly, inadequate depth in port channels and basins and cargo handling facilities which include berths, terminals, cargo handling equipments, etc. limit the capacity of Indian ports to handle new generation vessels. It is not, however, economically prudent to make investments in creating infrastructure for handling new generation vessels for all commodity categories in all the ports. Creation of infrastructure in the major ports depends on the present cargo mix in these ports, future traffic potential for various categories of cargo, assessment of the categories of vessels which may call at these ports, etc, after taking into account the demands of maritime trade. This is an on-going process. As part of this process, major ports undertake capital dredging for deepening of port basins and channels from time to time to keep pace with the draught requirements of vessels calling at these ports, construct new berths, expand existing berths and also acquire/upgrade their cargo handling equipment.

Bridge on Dhar river

†*333. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revised estimates of the bridge on Dhar river along 376 kilometers of National Highway No. 12 on Jaipur-Jabalpur road are pending for a long time;

(b) whether it is a fact that the work on bridge has been completed but

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.